Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend Claims 15-16 as follows.

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the determining and forwarding steps use a Small Group Multicast scheme.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the method on an intermediate node comprising the steps of:

receiving a multicast packet;

determining one or more "next hops" that the multicast packet should be forwarded to;

forwarding one copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops";

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit; and

repetitively executing the determining and forwarding steps for a plurality of one or more multicast packets.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and

performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the multicast packet comprises a small group multicast packet.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A tangibly embodied computer readable medium including instructions for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the tangibly embodied computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

determining the "next hops" for those destinations;

replicating the multicast packet for each "next hop";

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit;

forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each "next hop"; and

repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding steps for each newly received multicast packet.

16. (Currently Amended) The tangibly embodied computer readable medium as defined in claim 15, further comprising the instructions for:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and

performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

Claims 17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An intermediate node for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the intermediate node comprising:

a reception unit for receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

a determination unit for determining a "next hop" for each of the destinations;

a copying unit for replicating the multicast packet for each of the "next hops";

a processor for sending ACKs and/or NAKs between the intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit;

a forwarding unit for forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops"; and

a repeater unit for repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding for a plurality of multicast packets.

20. (Previously Presented) The intermediate node as defined in claim 19, further comprising:

an acknowledgement unit for processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast transmission; and

a retransmit unit for handling packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

Claims 21-22 (Canceled)